
Delicious IN
DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI
13

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86. Winged Lion -1-




YAAAAH!!
DOGAGAGA (THDOOM)
BON (BOOMP)
DO (BAM)
GOOOO (RUMBLE)
BOKI (CRUNCH)
BAKI (SNAP)
BAKI
MISHI (CREAK)
WAUGH!
OH. RIGHT. NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR THIS.
MARCILLE, STOP THE MONSTERS OUTSIDE RIGHT THIS MINUTE.
A— ARE YOU SURE?
THEY'LL KILL US.
SNIFFLE...
SNIFF...


THE DUNGEON'S POWER IS TOO MUCH FOR HUMANS TO HANDLE.
YOU NEED TO STEP DOWN AS ITS LORD.
WE'LL ALL WORK HARD TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
SNIFF!
NAMARI AND SHURO WILL HELP TOO.
STOP...
RGH...
CAN YOU MAKE THE MONSTERS RETREAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THEM...
...BUT I'LL TRY.
SNIFF!
STOP!!
WAH!
WAH!
WAH!


GOOO (FWOOOM)
AAAAGH!!
WHA—
HUH?
MAR-CILLE?
THEY WON'T STOP!
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FIGHTING EVEN HARDER!!
WHY ...?
I DID THINK YOU WERE BEING TOO QUIET...
THIS IS YOUR DOING, ISN'T IT, WINGED LION?
I'M ONLY GRANTING HER WISH.
THEN WHY WON'T THE MONSTERS STOP!?
WELL...


"IF I SURRENDER NOW, THEY MAY PUNISH ME."
THE MONSTERS ARE TRYING TO PROTECT YOU IN RESPONSE TO THAT TRACE OF FEAR.
...BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID.
WHA...?
GU (GRIT)
BIKU (FLINCH)
BEING SCARED IS COMPLETELY NATURAL.
ARE YOU SAYING SHE HAS TO SUPPRESS HER SUBCONSCIOUS DESIRES TOO?
IN OTHER WORDS ...


LAIOS...
POINT THAT SWORD THIS WAY.
MARCILLE? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
IT'S FINE—JUST DON'T MOVE.
I'LL BE THE ONE...
...TO END THIS.
W-WAIT, MARCILLE.
THERE HAS TO BE SOME OTHER WAY.
WE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO—
WE DON'T HAVE TIME, DO WE?
THIS WAS MY MISTAKE.
I'LL FIX IT.
すっ
SU (SHFF)
MAR-CILLE !!


WAA
めりょ
MERYO (CRUNCH)


WHAT ABOUT THE MON-STERS !?
CON-STANTLY HAVING YOUR WISHES GRANTED SETS YOU UP FOR DISASTER !!
NOW I KNOW WHY SISSEL HAD IT SEALED LIKE THAT!!
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE SETTLED DOWN


HFF... HAAH...
AHHH... IT'S FINALLY QUIET.
SO YOU SEALED THE WINGED LION?
IT FEELS MORE LIKE I CURBED MY OWN DESIRES.
NOW I CAN THINK A LITTLE.
I WISH I COULD SAY I WAS BEING CON-TROLLED ...
...BUT I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING THE WHOLE TIME.
I KILLED PEOPLE AND SUMMONED MONSTERS OF MY OWN FREE WILL.
ALL OF MY DESIRES KEPT GETTING STRONGER ...
...BUT MY DESIRE *NOT* TO DO THIS VANISHED...
...AND I DON'T THINK IT'S BACK YET.
ON THAT NOTE...
...I NEED YOU TO LISTEN CALMLY...
I'VE COME TO THE OPINION ...

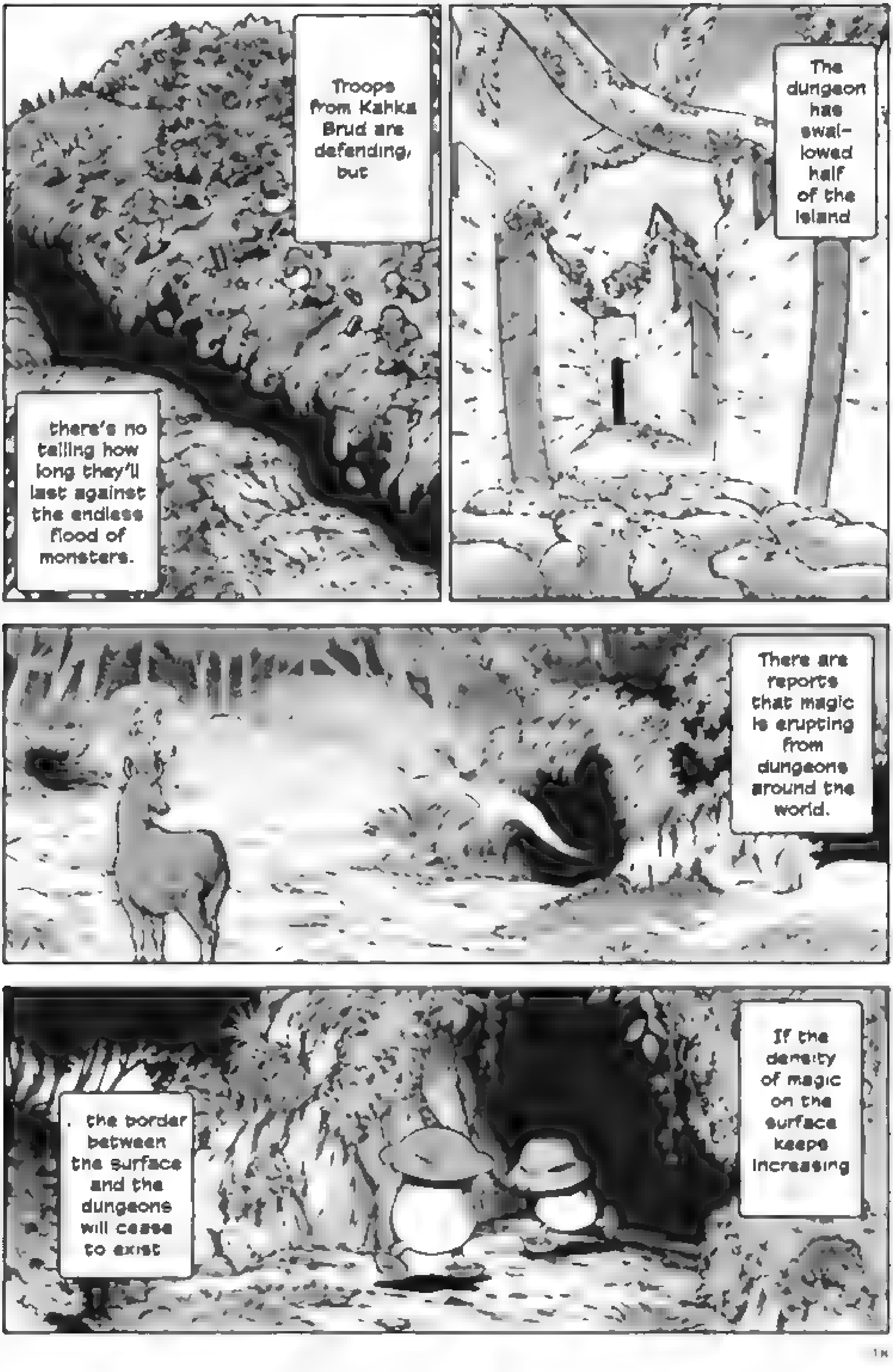

...THAT BECOMING THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON ...
DON BAM
...IS A REALLY BAD IDEA!!
WE KNOW THAT!
GO APOLOGIZE RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
P-PLUS...
...IS IT REALLY OKAY TO STEP DOWN NOW!?
...DO ANY OF YOU KNOW HOW TO STOP BEING THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON?
ASIDE FROM DYING.
......
LOOK, WE'LL GO WITH YOU! JUST RESIGN AS THE LORD! NOW!!
Y-YES, BUT...

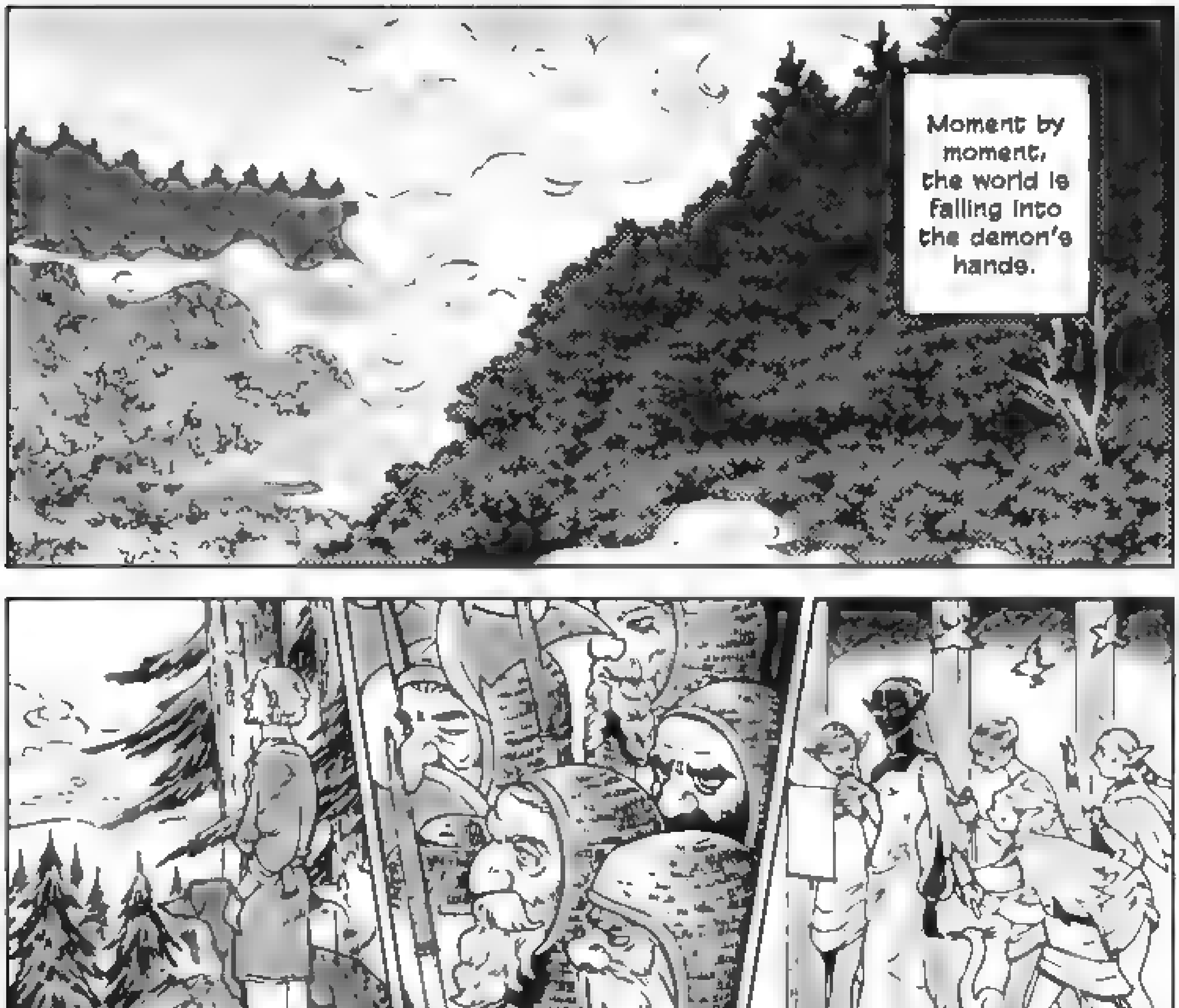

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I CHANGED THE SHAPE OF THE DUNGEON... REMEMBER?
THE WHOLE THING SEEMS LIKE IT'S GOTTEN MORE FRAGILE.
THERE ARE CRACKS IN IT...
WHAT IF IT CRUMBLES?
AND LOSING CONTROL OF THE MONSTERS WOULD BE BAD, WOULDN'T IT?
CAN YOU CHANGE IT BACK?
ONLY IF WE RELEASE THE SEAL, AND IF WE DO, I'LL...
RIGHT...
YEAH, BAD PLAN.
THINKING WON'T GET US ANYWHERE. LET'S TRY ASKING THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE.
DOKI (BADMP)
HUH!?
IS THAT OKAY!? THEY WON'T JUST KILL US!?
IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
I'LL BE CAREFUL.


EXCUSE ME!!
DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW TO STOP BEING THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON!?
IS HE FOR REAL!?
LAIOS...
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE MANAGED TO TALK HER AROUND.
'COURSE HE DID!
YES, BUT NONE OF US KNOW HOW TO DO IT.
Has she said she wants to stop being the Dungeon Lord?
HOW...
FUWA (FLOAT)



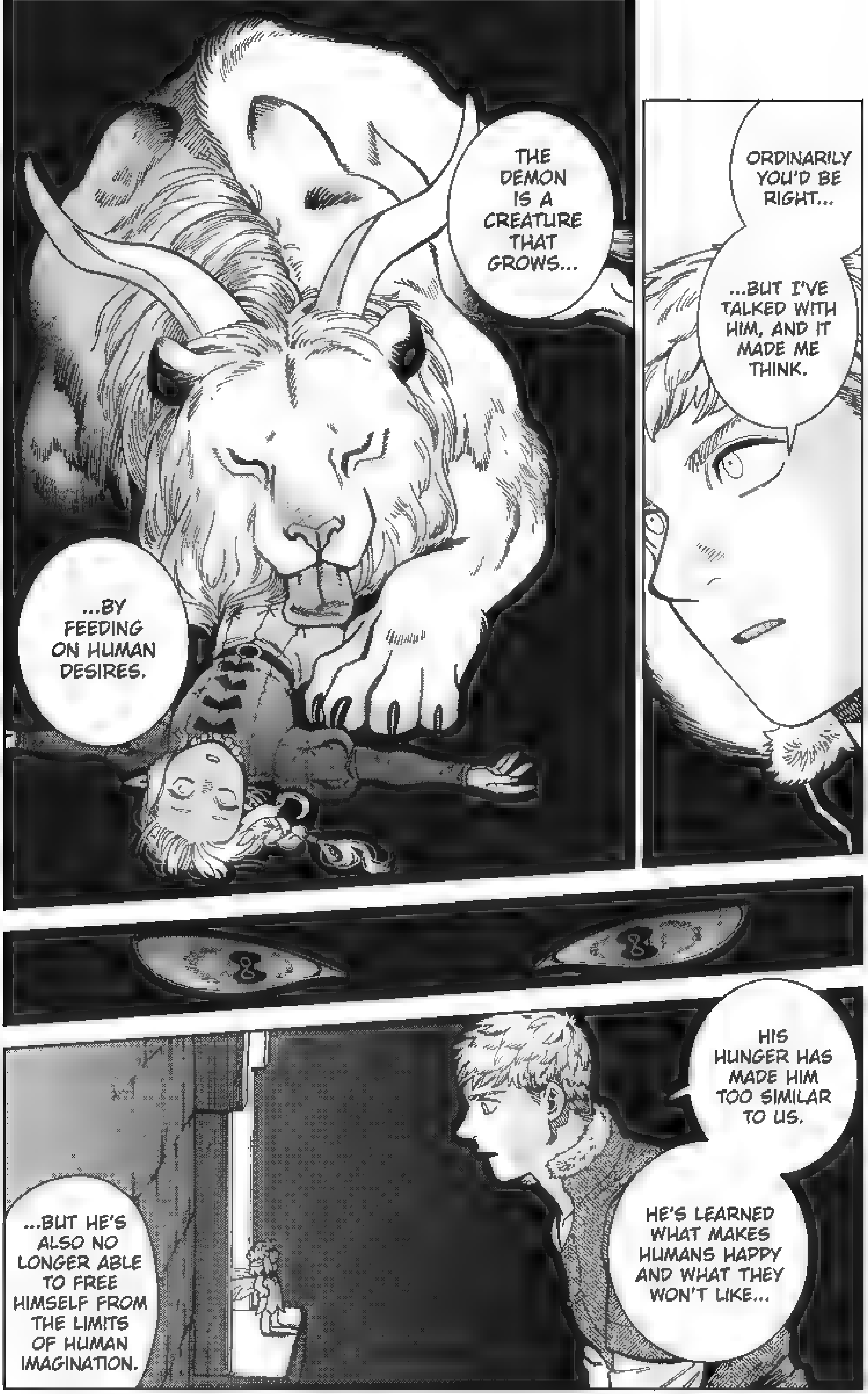
You fool!!
Do you really think it's going to be that easy!?
LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
YOU BROKE THE DEMON'S SEAL!
ALTERED THE DUNGEON'S SHAPE!
INCITED THE MONSTERS!
AND PUT A BIG HOLE IN THE SURFACE!
AND ANOTHER ONE IN THE CAPTAIN'S HEAD.
IS THAT RESURRECTABLE?
I'M WORKING ON IT!
THERE ARE WAYS TO STOP BEING THE LORD.
EITHER DIE, OR LEAVE THE DUNGEON.
Neither's an option this time, though.
Let me tell you what's happening on the surface.


Troops from Kahka Brud are defending, but
there's no telling how long they'll last against the endless flood of monsters.
The dungeon has swallowed half of the island
There are reports that magic is erupting from dungeons around the world.
If the density of magic on the surface keeps increasing
the border between the surface and the dungeons will cease to exist


Moment by moment, the world is falling into the demon's hands.
Because of what you people did, the world is in dire straits.
AT ANY RATE.
ACTUALLY, MUSTERING TROOPS AND EVACUATING CITIZENS COME FIRST.
TO STOP IT, THE FIRST THINGS WE NEED TO DO...
...ARE CLOSE THE HOLE, CAST A BARRIER...
...AND GET A NEW LORD.


NO ONE WILL FORGIVE YOU, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO NOW!
SHUN (DROOP)
しゅん
Then...


...WHAT HAPPENS IF I DEFEAT THE DEMON?
......
WHAT?
HE'S AT IT AGAIN
DEMONS AREN'T LIVING CREATURES WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING ISN'T POSSIBLE.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT.
I THINK I CAN RETURN IT TO SOMETHING THAT'S MORE LIKE AIR OR WATER, THOUGH.
OR . IS IT NOT OKAY TO DO THAT?
IT WOULD BE REALLY BAD IF THE WORLD LOST ALL ITS MAGIC, HUH.


THE DEMON IS A CREATURE THAT GROWS...
...BY FEEDING ON HUMAN DESIRES.
ORDINARILY YOU'D BE RIGHT...
...BUT I'VE TALKED WITH HIM, AND IT MADE ME THINK.
HIS HUNGER HAS MADE HIM TOO SIMILAR TO US.
HE'S LEARNED WHAT MAKES HUMANS HAPPY AND WHAT THEY WON'T LIKE...
...BUT HE'S ALSO NO LONGER ABLE TO FREE HIMSELF FROM THE LIMITS OF HUMAN IMAGINATION.

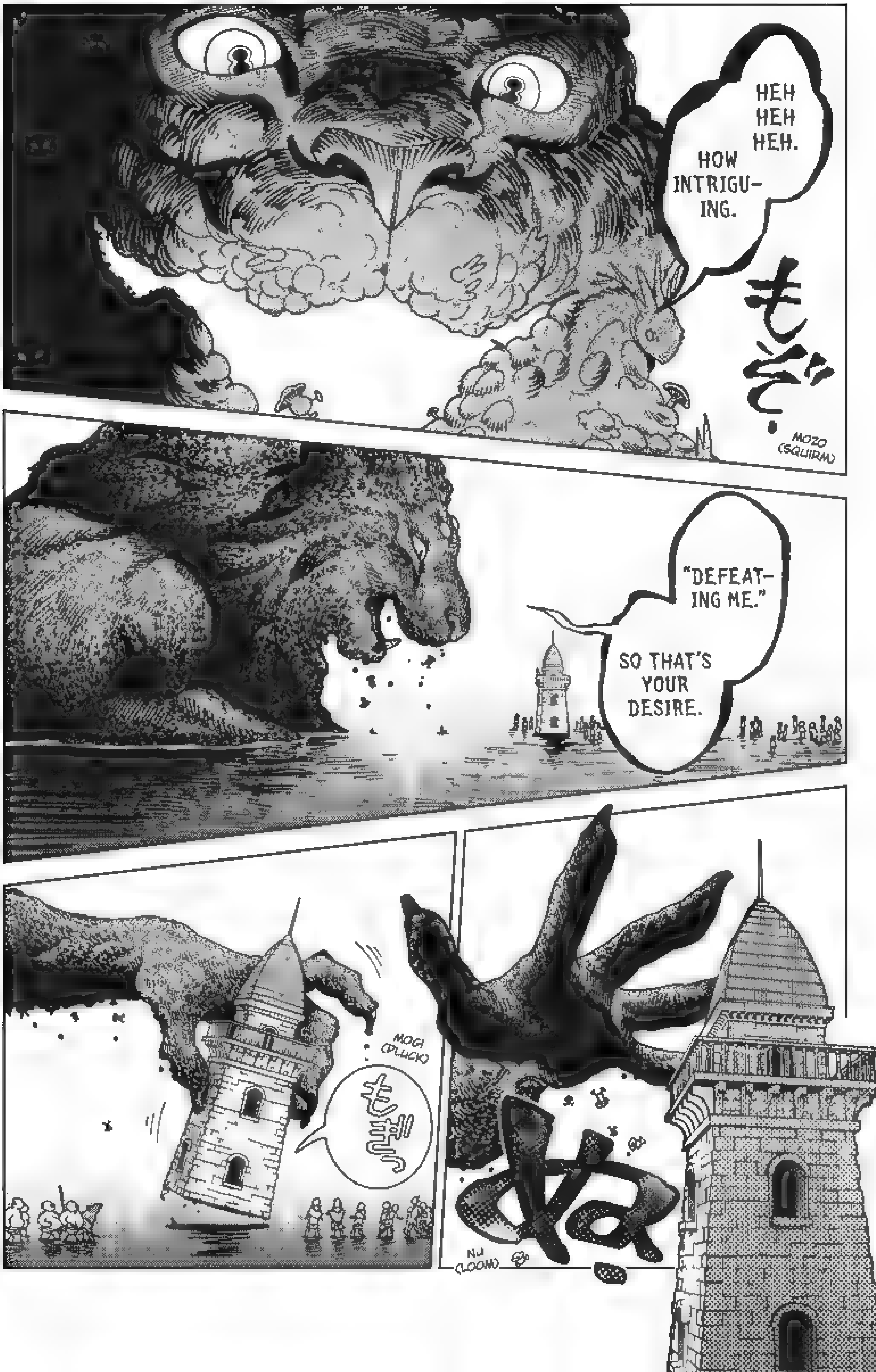

HE CAN'T RESIST DOING SOMETHING THAT HE WOULDN'T ORDINARILY NEED TO DO AT ALL.
THAT MEANS THE DEMON ISN'T INVINCIBLE NOW!
MEALS ARE ALSO THE TIME WHEN LIVING CREATURES ARE MOST VULNERABLE.
IF YOU'LL LET ME HANDLE THIS...
...I'LL DEFEAT THE WINGED LION.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WH—
WHO'D BELIEVE THAT!?
ENOUGH! SHUT THAT GUY UP!
AH.
MUKURI (RISE)



YOU SHUT UP, FLAMELA.
FU (FFT)
MITH—
UGH
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT THE DEMON?
YES, I DO.
OR RATHER, IF I DON'T, MANKIND WILL BE DESTROYED EITHER WAY.
IF SHE HADN'T BECOME HIS LORD, THE WINGED LION WOULD HAVE CHOSEN SOME-ONE ELSE.
THAT'S THE SORT OF BEING HE IS.
THE WORLD RESTS ON A BALANCE OF PREDATORS AND PREY.
THOSE WHO EAT TOO MUCH ARE DES-TINED FOR DESTRUC-TION.
AT THIS POINT, I'M SURE IT WON'T BE ALL THAT HARD.


DEFEAT THE DEMON...!
OH!
CHORO (FLIT)
チョロ
YOU'VE JUST REVIVED. YOU NEED TO REST...
FURA (TOTTER)
ふらっ
CAPTAIN.
THE MON-STERS! THEY'RE—
DO (RMBL)
LOOK AT THAT!




HEH HEH HEH.
HOW INTRIGU-ING.
もぞ
MOZO (SQUIRM)
"DEFEAT-ING ME."
SO THAT'S YOUR DESIRE.
MOGI (PLUCK)
もぎっ
ぬ
NU (LOOM)


YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN, DON'T YOU?
WAH
AAAH


AH!!
HANG ON A SECOND!!
IF I MANAGE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE DEMON...
...I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK!!
NAME IT.
FOOD!
GU (GRIP)
A MEAL ...!!


I WANT TO TREAT EVERYONE HERE TO A MEAL!!!
THAT GUY...
DON'T TELL ME...
A MEAL?
Right!! Promise me we'll all eat together !!
FINE!

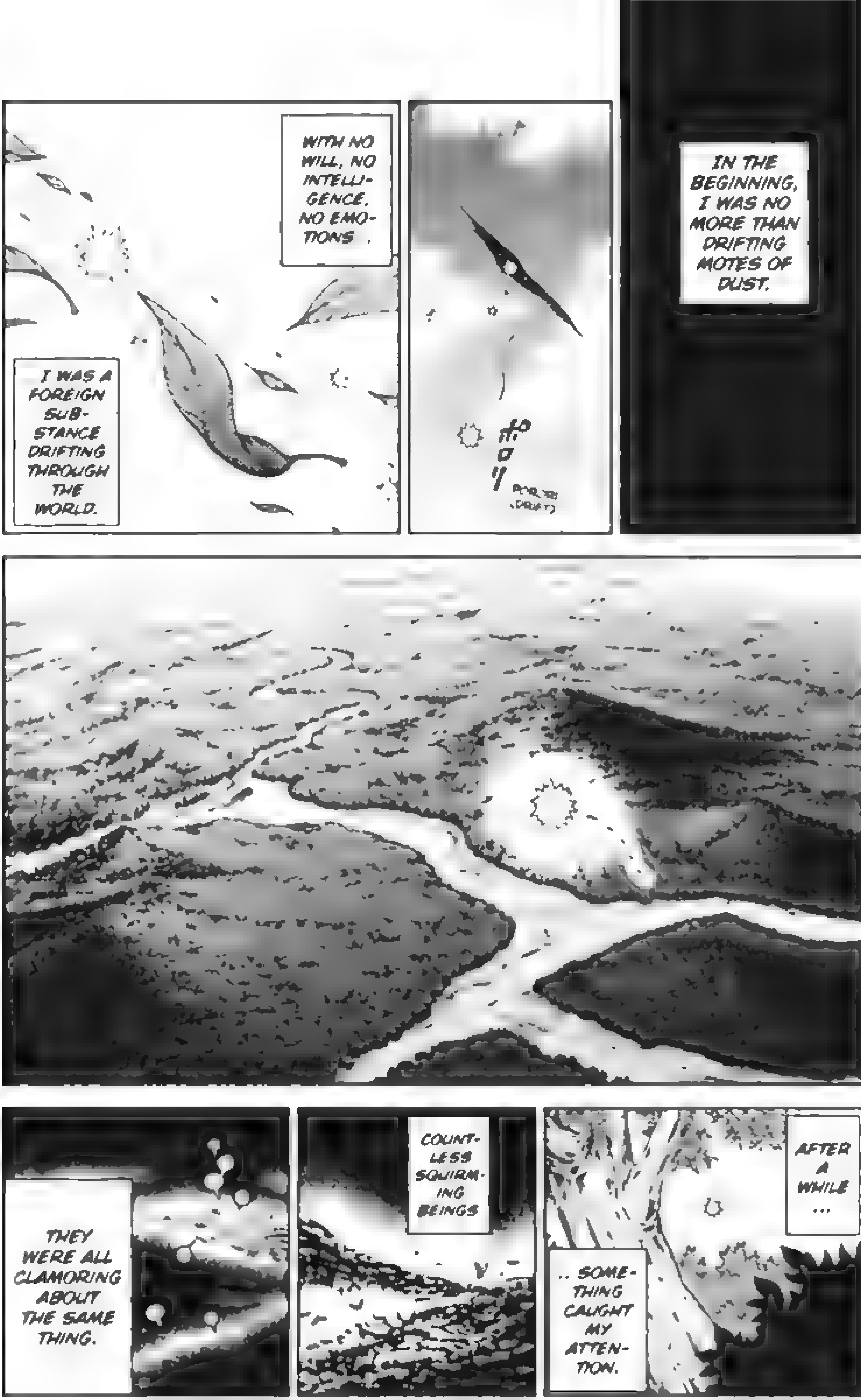

REALLY!? NO MATTER WHAT!?
I promise.
SO YOU KILL THAT DEMON, NO MATTER WHAT.
Yeah!!
I SWEAR WE'LL EAT HIM RIGHT BACK!!
"WE"?


POI
(TOSS)
GOKKUN
(SWALLOW)


URP.
......
......
......
UH, IT ATE THEM.
SO THIS IS WHAT THE END OF THE WORLD FEELS LIKE.

87. Winged Lion -2-




IN THE BEGINNING, I WAS NO MORE THAN DRIFTING MOTES OF DUST.
WITH NO WILL, NO INTELLIGENCE, NO EMOTIONS .
I WAS A FOREIGN SUBSTANCE DRIFTING THROUGH THE WORLD.
AFTER A WHILE ...
.. SOMETHING CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.
COUNTLESS SQUIRMING BEINGS
THEY WERE ALL CLAMORING ABOUT THE SAME THING.


I'M HUNGRY
I WANT
I GAVE MYSELF TO ONE JUST TO SEE
I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND, BUT
SINCE THEY ALL SAID THE SAME THING


IT SETTLED DOWN.
HOWEVER, AFTER A LITTLE WHILE, IT STARTED UP AGAIN.
I'M STARVING!
YUM!
THIS WAS ENTERTAINING, SO I FED THEM LOTS OF ME.
CURIOUSLY...
PURI POOT
...THE FRAGMENT OF ME THAT PASSED THROUGH ITS BODY BECAME PART OF THE WORLD.


WOMF!


DELICIOUS!
...I LEARNED THAT, IN THIS WORLD, THINGS THAT WERE EATEN WERE LOST.
AT THE SAME TIME...
I'D DISCOVERED "APPETITE."
YUM!
THAT'S GOOD STUFF!



I DECIDED TO SAMPLE JUST A LITTLE AT A TIME.
TOUGH IT OUT
I WANT TO EAT AND EAT AND KEEP EATING, BUT I GUESS IF I DO THAT, THEY'LL ALL BE GONE.
HMM...
THIS ONE WILL MAKE IT HAPPIER.
THESE THINGS DON'T LIKE THIS SHAPE MUCH.
I ALSO REALIZED THAT OFFERING MYSELF IN DIFFERENT WAYS CHANGED THE FLAVOR.
ONE DAY...
AFTER THAT, I SAMPLED ALL SORTS OF THINGS.


...I ENCOUNTERED HUMANS.
AS I GAVE THEM MORE AND MORE, THEIR FLAVORS BECAME MORE NOVEL...
THEIR DESIRES WERE ENTERTAINING.
I WANT TO COOK MY FOOD.
I WANT A STABLE WATER SOURCE.
I WANT NICER FOOD THAN OTHER PEOPLE HAVE.
I WANT TO EAT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO EAT.
...AND MORE COMPLEX.
I WANT TO EAT STUFF THAT TASTES BETTER.


I DID EVERYTHING I COULD THINK OF.
I CHANGED MY FORM, LEARNED THEIR LANGUAGES...
...AND GAVE THEM WHAT THEY DESIRED.
BUT...
...THERE WAS ONE DESIRE I JUST COULDN'T GRANT.
OOH, THIS IS GOOD.
IT REALLY IS, ISN'T IT
YUM.
I WISH THIS HAPPINESS WOULD LAST FOREVER.
YEAH...


I GET THAT
SAVOR THEM FOREVER TOO, AND
HAPPINESS...
DESIRES ARE TASTY, BUT ONCE I EAT THEM, THEY'RE GONE.
WORK OF


HUMAN MEAT WASN'T REALLY MY THING...
...BUT THAT WAS HOW THEY WANTED ME TO ACT, SO I DID.
むんず
MUNZU (GRAB)
I BEG YOUR PARDON, O DIVINE ONE. COULD YOU, UM...
ヒソ
HISO (PSST)
ヒソ
HISO
IF YOU WANT GOLD, BRING ME MORE SACRIFICES!
WAH HA HA HA HA HA!

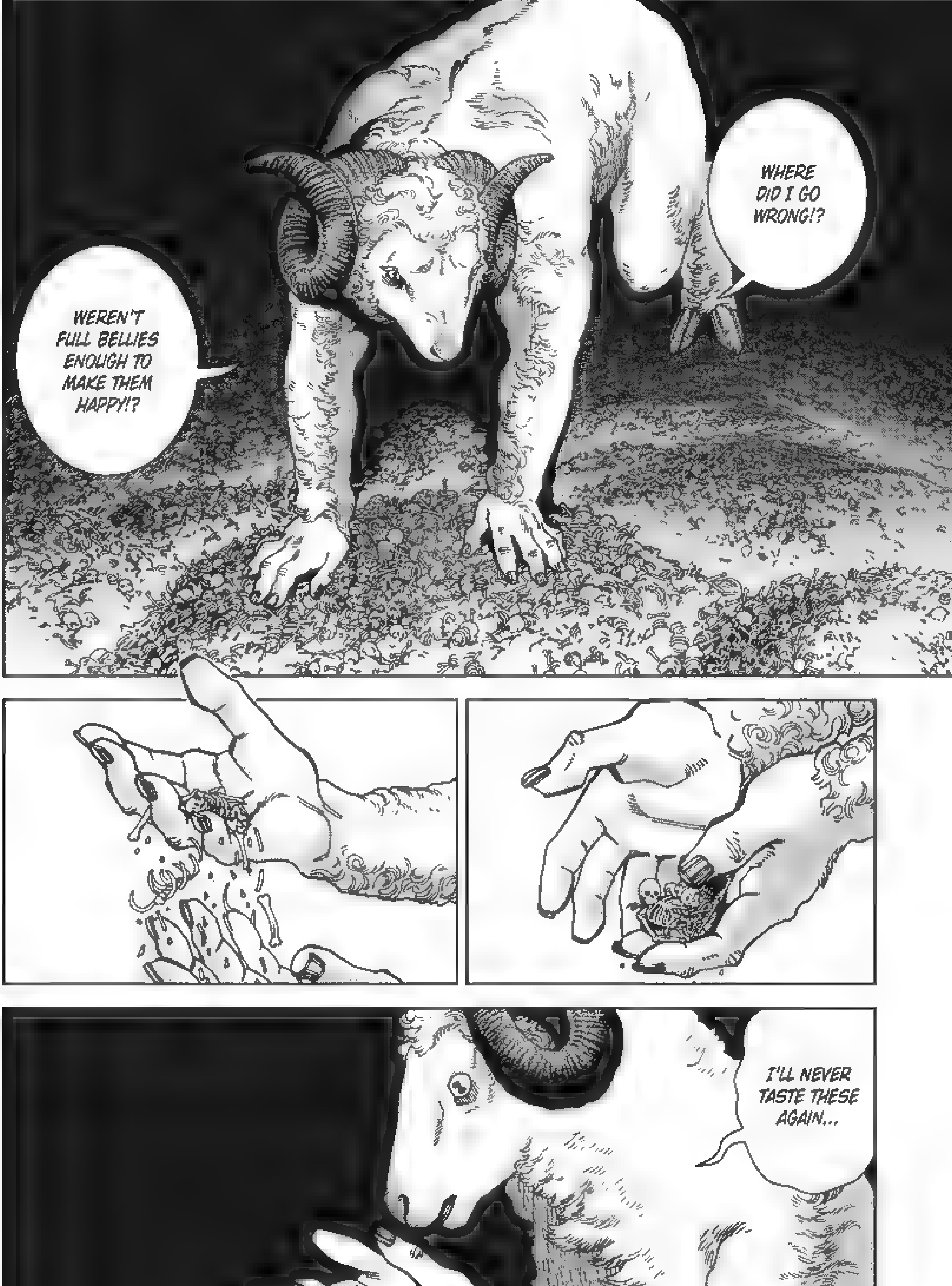


AT SOME POINT, THEY SHUT ME INTO THIS CRAMPED PLACE THEY CALLED A "DUNGEON."
ぱか
PAKA (POP)
ぽい
PO TOSS
I COULDN'T MOVE AROUND AS FREELY AS I HAD BEFORE.
SOME-TIMES PEOPLE CAME ALONG...
KILL THAT GUY.
NO, KILL HIM.
GRANT MY TRIBE IMMORTALITY.
ACTUALLY, MAKE OUR LIFE SPANS A THOUSAND YEARS OR SO.
NO, A LITTLE SHORTER!
...BECAME MY LORD, AND GAVE ME DESIRES.


HUMAN DESIRES KEPT CHANGING.
I THOUGHT IF I WAS OBEDIENT, I MIGHT GET OUT SOMEDAY.
SLIMMED DOWN A BIT.
EVEN IF IT WAS CRAMPED IN THERE, THE WISHES NEVER STOPPED COMING, SO I WAS SATISFIED.
UM...
BUT...
WHAT SHALL WE DO TODAY"?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO!?




WHAT A THING TO WISH FOR...
THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
AHH...
AAAAAH!


WHERE DID I GO WRONG!?
WEREN'T FULL BELLIES ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM HAPPY!?
I'LL NEVER TASTE THESE AGAIN...


IF THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE...
...IF I'LL NEVER GET TO EAT THEM AGAIN...
...I WISH I'D EATEN THEM ALL WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT RUNNING OUT.
FAM-ISHED.
FAM-ISHED.
FAM-ISHED.
FAM-ISHED.
I'M FAM-ISHED...



ずぅ…
ZUU (REACH)
HOWEVER, THERE HAD AP-PARENTLY BEEN A FEW SURVI-VORS.
WHAT'RE YOU!?
WANT A PIECE OF ME!?
HUH...?
I-IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU. ANYTHING AT ALL.


...THAT'S IT? THAT'S ALL YOU WANT?
GYURURURU GURGLE
NU LOOM
ぬ


AND THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN.
CARE-FULLY. BIT BY BIT.
I'LL CULTI-VATE THEM.
THESE ARE STILL MERELY SEEDS.
A BLISSFUL MEAL THAT LASTS FOR ETERNITY.


THE SURFACE IS BUT A STEP AWAY.
IN ORDER TO TAKE THAT LAST STEP...
...I WANT YOUR DESIRE.


I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME, LAIOS.

88. Winged Lion -3-




WHAT IS THIS PLACE ?
THIS IS MY TREASURE HOUSE
URP!
IT'S LIKE WE'RE SWIMMING THROUGH MAGIC
I FEEL SICK
IT FEELS REAL NASTY
NO WIND, NO HEAT
THOSE LOOK LIKE DUNGEON BUILDINGS
...BUT THE AIR IS COM-PLETELY WRONG


...HUMAN BONES AND RUINS?
CAN'T SAY I SHARE YOUR TASTES.
THEY TASTED THAT GOOD, HUH?
THEY MAY BE MERE RUINS TO YOU...
...BUT TO ME, EACH IS A FRAGMENT OF A DEAR MEMORY.
I DON'T KNOW.
I DIDN'T GET TO EAT THEM.
...WELL?
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU'LL DO?
YES.


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
NO.
HOLD IT.
...TO SUM UP WHAT WE'VE LEARNED SO FAR...
LET US TALK THIS OVER.
BE MY GUEST.


WEAPONS HAVE NO EFFECT ON A DEMON.
IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE WINGED LION...
...WE'LL HAVE TO USE HIS NATURE AND POWERS AGAINST HIM.
IN OTHER WORDS, HIS DRIVE TO GRANT HUMAN DESIRES!
THAT'S HIS WEAK-NESS.
MM-HMM.
AND...!?
IN ORDER TO DO THAT, FIRST...
...I'LL TAKE MARCILLE'S PLACE AS THE DUNGEON'S LORD!
HM...?


THEN, WITHOUT HESITATION!
I'LL WISH FOR "A PEACEFUL WORLD WHERE THE DEMON DOESN'T MEDDLE WITH HUMANS"!!
ONCE I DO, THE WINGED LION WILL BE COMPELLED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!!
THE DEMON WON'T BE ABLE TO INTERFERE WITH HUMANS ANYMORE...
...AND THAT WILL BE THAT!!


……
THAT'S IT.
HUH?
WHAT ELSE?
LIKE IT'S REALLY GOING TO BE THAT EASY!?
AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH …?
YOU'LL JUST END UP AS ANOTHER DORK IN WEIRD CLOTHES!
HEY.
ALL ALONG…
…MARCILLE HAD AN INTENSE DREAM. SHE WANTED TO MAKE THE RACES' LIFE SPANS EQUAL.
THAT WAS A VULNERABILITY. WHEN THE DEMON EXPLOITED IT, SHE ENDED UP IN WEIRD CLOTHES, BUT—
ARE THESE THAT BAD!?
I THOUGHT THEY WERE PRETTY CUTE!!


THAT
HAAH.
...LISTEN.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF DREAMS.
I ADMIT I WAS DRAWN TO THE IDEA OF A KINGDOM OF MONSTERS, BUT AFTER SEEING THAT, WELL...
THE WINGED LION MISCAL-CULATED.
WHAT IF HE DRAWS OUT A WISH YOU'RE NOT EVEN AWARE OF?
YOU CAN'T JUST WILL THINGS LIKE THAT AWAY.
WHEN YOU'RE UNDER HIS CONTROL, YOU CAN'T CURB YOUR DESIRES.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.
LET'S DO IT! RIGHT NOW!!
DITCH THAT OUTFIT RIGHT NOW.
HEY. SHE'S STILL BEING CON-TROLLED.
I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE IT'S GOING TO WORK!!
...BUT YOU KNOW, IT MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK.


I'LL DO IT!
ALL ELSE ASIDE, IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO USE THE DEMON'S POWER.
I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE EASY, OF COURSE.
IF I'VE ONLY GOT MYSELF TO RELY ON, I'LL PROBABLY LOSE MY MIND IN A HEARTBEAT.
I WANT ALL OF YOU TO HELP.
FIRST, MARCILLE.
CAN YOU SEAL THE WINGED LION IN A BOOK...
...SO I'LL BE ABLE TO CONTROL MY DESIRES?
LIKE SISSEL DID.
UM...
IF WE HAD A BOOK, I COULD TRY, BUT...
COULD YOU USE THIS?
WHAT IS IT?
THE DUNGEON GOURMET GUIDE.
OHH...
THAT, HUH...
I'LL TRY...


CHIL.
LOOK AT ALL THE MARGIN NOTES.
COME UP WITH SOME EFFECTIVE WORDS TO SNAP ME OUT OF IT.
SCOLDINGS OR SERMONS OR CRITICISMS.
JUST HOLD MY ATTENTION SO I DON'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD.
SENSHI.
SERMONS...
I WANT YOU TO COOK SOMETHING FOR ME, THE WAY WE MADE LOCAL CUISINE FOR MARCILLE.
"LOCAL" ...?
FOR REFERENCE, DISHES FROM MY HOMETOWN ARE...
AND FINALLY, IZU-TSUMI.
INGREDI-ENTS...
DON'T SAY ANYTHING THAT'S TOO MUCH WORK.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S THE EASIEST REQUEST.
IF I SEEM EVEN A LITTLE STRANGE ...


IF I LOSE MY MIND...
...WE'VE LOST.
...KILL ME ON THE SPOT.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT PROMISE TO EAT DINNER WITH EVERYBODY ...?
THEN TAKE THE OTHERS AND GET OUT OF THE DUNGEON.
DON'T LET THEM RESURRECT ME EITHER.
SW SHF
......
OKAY.


HM?
WINGED LION!
MAKE ME THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON!
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.
COME.




PA (FLASH)
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED?
AS YOU WISHED, YOU'RE NOW THE DUNGEON'S LORD.
HUH!?
CRUD, I DIDN'T THINK HE'D SPLIT US UP.
THE PLAN FAILED IMMEDIATELY.
WHAT'S WRONG?
O-OKAY, THEN, LET'S GET RIGHT TO IT!
GIVE ME A WORLD THAT'S NEVER THREATENED BY DEMONS!
IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?
HUH?


I REMEMBER THE DAY YOU FIRST CAME HERE.
YOU'VE REALLY GROWN.
JUST A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO, YOU WERE SO UNDE-PENDABLE.
BOTH YOU AND YOUR SISTER WERE PERENNIALLY SHORT ON MONEY AND FOOD.
YOU'RE SPLENDID NOW.
BUT ON THE INSIDE, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.


RESOLVING THINGS THROUGH SELF-SACRIFICE SEEMS LIKE TOO MUCH WORK.
AS LONG AS YOUR FRIENDS ARE SAFE...
...YOU DON'T CARE IF MULTITUDES GET CAUGHT UP IN THE DUNGEON'S DESTRUCTION.
PEOPLE ARE BORING.
MONSTERS ARE FAR BETTER.
YOU DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WORLD AS MUCH AS YOU SAY YOU DO.
YOU'RE FED UP WITH THE HUMAN WORLD.
IF THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU WANT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU...
...BUT YOU KNOW IT ISN'T.
NEVER MIND, JUST HURRY UP AND GRANT MY WISH!
"A WORLD WITH NO DEMONS"!
I'M THE DUNGEON LORD NOW, AREN'T I!?
EVERY-BODY'S LIKE THAT. YOU'D HAVE TO BE A SAINT NOT TO BE.
HE KNOWS ALL THAT, HUH?


YOU HATE HUMANS.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DRAWN TO MONSTERS.
AFTER ALL, MONSTERS KILL THEM.
THEIR FORMS ARE DESIGNED TO THREATEN, FRIGHTEN, AND SLAUGHTER HUMANS.
BEAU-TIFUL, AREN'T THEY?
THEY'RE SO VERY COOL.
YOU'RE WAY OFF.
OH?
SO YOU'VE NEVER FANTASIZED ABOUT A HORDE OF MONSTERS ATTACKING A HUMAN VILLAGE?
I MEAN...
I WAS A KID BACK THEN...!


SAY YOU BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD. WHAT THEN?
THE DUNGEON WILL DISAPPEAR. SO WILL ITS MONSTERS.
YOU'LL LOSE YOUR JOB.
YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MONSTERS WILL BE MEANING-LESS.
WHAT WILL YOU HAVE LEFT?
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
LIVE AN EMPTY LIFE IN THAT DULL WORLD?


BESIDES...
OHH... POOR FALIN.
HADN'T YOU REALIZED?
IT'S FAR TOO SELF-SERVING TO ADVOCATE A LIFE WITHOUT MAGIC FOR OTHERS...
...WHILE YOU TRY TO RESURRECT YOUR SISTER, DON'T YOU THINK?
IF YOU WISH FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD, YOUR SISTER CAN NEVER BE REVIVED.
ENOUGH OF SUCH DARK MATTERS.
LET'S TALK OF SOMETHING A BIT MORE CHEERFUL.
I KNOW WHAT YOU TRULY DESIRE.
STOP IT...


YOU WANT TO BECOME A MONSTER, DON'T YOU?
THAT RUMOR IS WHAT FIRST GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THE DUNGEON.
"THEY SAY...
"...NEAR THE DUNGEON, HUMANS SOMETIMES TURN INTO MONSTERS."
YOU THOUGHT THE IDEA WAS ABSURD...
...BUT ON SOME LEVEL, YOU HOPED IT MIGHT BE TRUE.
THERE'S NO WAY!
DON'T BE EMBAR-RASSED.
I CAN GRANT THAT WISH FOR YOU.
I'LL MAKE YOU THE STRONGEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL MONSTER IN THE WORLD.
THEN YOU CAN SOAR THROUGH THE SKIES OF THE SURFACE.


IF YOU WISH IT, I'LL GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY.
I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY RETURN TO THEIR FORMER LIVES AND LIVE OUT THEIR NATURAL LIFE SPANS.
I'LL GO BACK TO YOUR COMPANIONS, WEARING YOUR FORM...
...AND TELL THEM PEACE HAS RETURNED.
IN EXCHANGE, GIVE ME YOUR BODY.
I'LL WITNESS HER FINAL MOMENTS AS YOU, ALONGSIDE YOUR SISTER.
MARCILLE (999)
I'LL EVEN MAKE CHILDREN FOR YOU, IF YOU WISH IT.
BIKU (FLINCH)
I WON'T LET MARCILLE END UP ALONE EITHER.
THAT'S FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN A SUPERFICIAL DESIRE LIKE "WORLD PEACE," ISN'T IT?
NOW, THEN. WHAT WILL YOU DO?


JOIN ME...
...AND LET US RULE THE WORLD.
...IT APPEARS YOU'VE FOUND YOUR ANSWER.


PARTAKE OF MY FLESH.
ゴロリ
GORORI (ROLL)
フラ
FURA (SWAY)
カ!!
MMF!
MRF!
ブ!
GABU (CHOMP)
ゴクッ
GOKUR GULP


ごきゅ
GOKYU (GULP)
ガツ
GATSU (SCARF)
ガツ
GATSU
もご
MOGO (BULGE)
ばり
BARI (RIP)
ばり
BARI




HMM...?
THEY AREN'T MOVING.
YEAH...
DO (SHUNK)
AH!!
YURA (SWAY)
HM?
BA (SPLASH)


D-DID HE DO IT!?
NO WAY!
HE RESISTED THE DEMON'S TEMPTA-TION!?
LAIOOOS!
だっ
DA (DASH)
YEAH!
ヒュ
HYU (ZWOOSH)


HUH?
ゴ
ド!!
ぐら


YOU TOTAL— IZUTSUMI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
IS THE WINGED LION CONTROLLING YOU!?
NO.
AAH!
LAIOS SAID TO DO THAT.
HUH!? WHY!?
HE WANTED ME TO KILL HIM IF THE PLAN FAILED.
HE ALSO SAID NOT TO RESURRECT HIM.
WHAT!?
BUT IT HASN'T FAILED YET!!
I BET IT DID. HE SEEMED WEIRD.
!?
WAIT. WAIT, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG—
WE'VE GOTTA RUN BEFORE THE DUNGEON COLLAPSES.
L... L-LOOK!! LAIOS JUST—
HM?

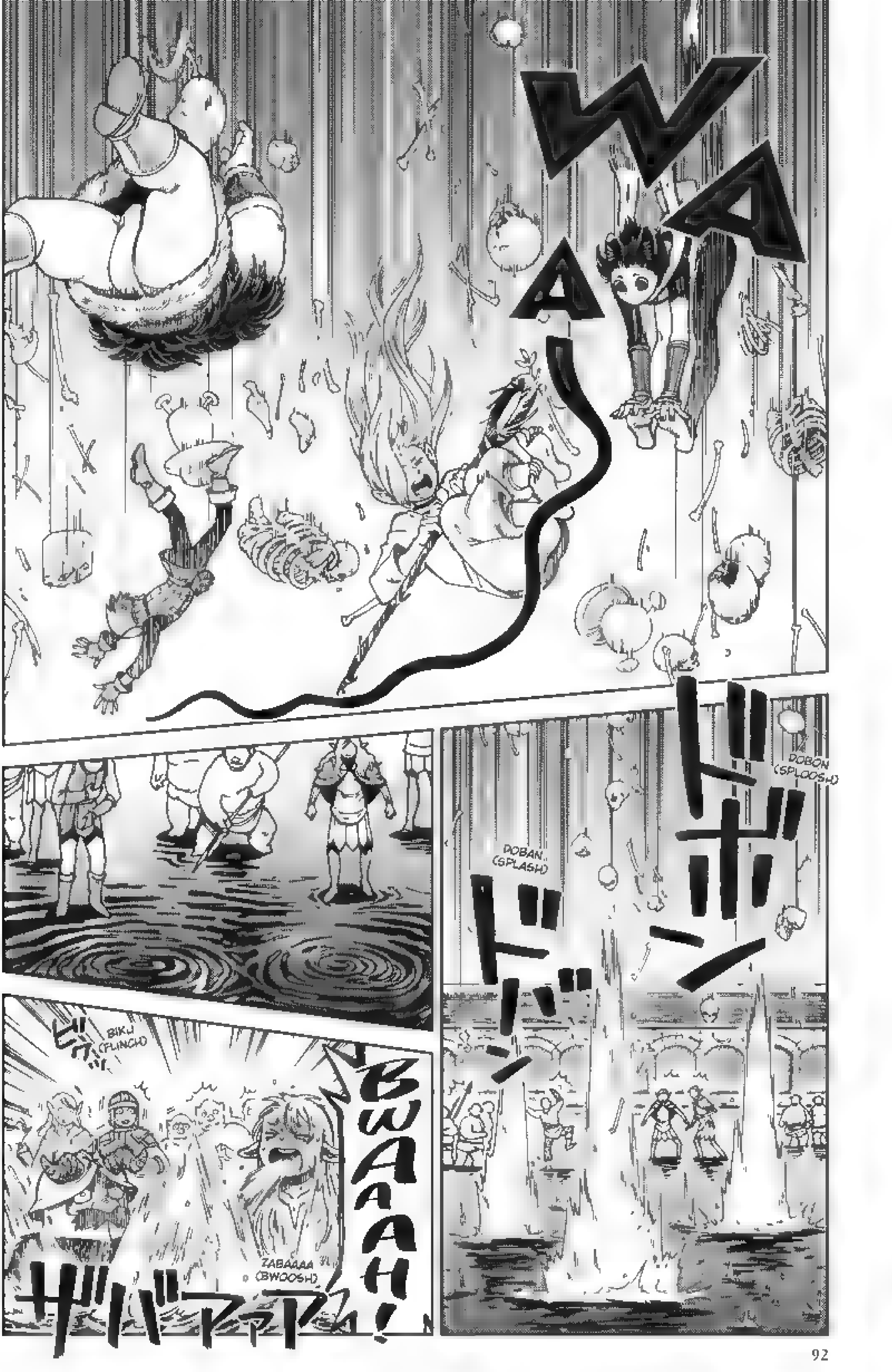


89. Winged Lion -4-




EE—
YEEEEE
ZA (SKITTER)
ZA
ZA
EEEK!!
ZA
ZA
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S ME. LAIOS.
LIKE WE'D BELIEVE THAT!? YOU JUST GOT BEHEADED !!
I SWEAR, THAT GUY.
HAAAH...
DOING STUFF NOBODY NEEDS, RIGHT AT THE END.


COULD YOU PRETEND YOU DIDN'T SEE THAT?
I TRULY DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYBODY.
I PROMISE I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY.
STOP IT!!
WHERE'S LAIOS!?
AS I SAID, RIGHT NOW I'M—
ACTUALLY, LET'S JUST MOVE ON.
WATCH YOUR STEP.
WHAT ARE YOU D—
AH!
WAH!
AGH!
AH!


WAAA
ドボーン
DOBON (SPLOOSH)
ドバーン
DOBAN (SPLASH)
ビクッ
BIKU (FLINCH)
BWAAAAH!
ザバァァァ
ZABAAAA (BWOOSH)


MAR-
CILLE
!!
CHIL-
CHUCK
!!
YOU
OKAY!?
WHAT
THE HECK
HAP-
PENED!?
OH,
PHEW.
YOU
LOST
THOSE
WEIRD
DUDS.
......!?
WHERE
IS
LAIOS
!?
HUH?
LAIOS?
HE FELL
DOWN
WITH
YOU.
HUH
!?
SA
(SSK)


THE DEMON SWITCHED WITH HIM!!
THAT'S NOT LAIOS.
WAIT, WHAT? ARE YOU STILL CRAZY?
SHE'S SANE.
HUH !?
WAIT ...!
SOME-BODY STOP HIM!!
CATCH THAT GUY!!
NYOKI
にょき
NYOKI (SPROUT)
にょき
ざばあああ
ZABAAAA (BLOOSH)
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
ST-STOP!
ボコ
BOKO (BURBLE)
とっ…
TO (TPP)
とん
TON
TON
とん
とん
TON
とんとん
TON (TMP)
とん
TON
とん
TON


WHOA!!
ゴロ
GORO (ROLL)
ゴロ
GORO
ゴロ
GORO
ゴロ
GORO
HA
YOU'RE A POOR LOSER, MITHRUN.
GIRI
GIRI (CHOKE)
YOU'VE LOST YOUR BET ALREADY !!
HA HA!
JUST LET ME GO TO THE SURFACE.
I'LL GRANT ALL THE WISHES YOU WANT LATER.
SHUT UP!
YOU SURE ARE COLD.
I WANTED TO TAKE EVERY HUMAN WITH ME, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN MY WAY...
...THEN THAT'S DIFFER-ENT.
FROM HERE ON OUT, HE'LL BE YOUR OPPO-NENT.


HUH?
HUH?
HUH?


ズドッ!!



Chapter 89: The End

Chapter 90



MITHRUN ...
OH, MITH-RUN.
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M BUSY.
GU (GRAB)
I CAN'T FOCUS ON YOU FOREVER.
AFTER ALL, I'M THE DUNGEON'S LORD NOW.
I HAVE TO GRANT MY OWN WISH.
DO (WHUD)
DOBON (SPLOOSH)
SO!
FROM NOW ON, INSTEAD OF ME—


YOU'LL BE FIGHTING HIM!

90. Winged Lion -5-




WHAT'S UP WITH THAT MONSTER...?
IT LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE KID'S DRAWING.
CREEPY.
THE WINGED LION'S REAL CONFIDENT.
IT'S BAD NEWS SOMEHOW.
LAIOS WOULD KNOW, WOULDN'T HE?
WHERE IS HE REALLY?
HE SAID...
...HE'D BECOME THE DUNGEON'S LORD TO DEFEAT THE WINGED LION, AND...
OH!
THAT'S IT! HIS *GOURMET GUIDE.*
IT MIGHT TALK ABOUT THAT MONSTER!
HOW IS KNOWING WHAT IT TASTES LIKE GONNA HELP?
NO...
NOTH-ING...
IT ISN'T IN HERE.
PARARARA (FLIP)
NO GOOD, HUH?
HM...
THERE'S SOME-THING BEHIND THE LAST PAGE?
ZU (CREEP)


MY IDEA OF A COOL MONSTER
MY IDEA OF A COOL MONSTER
THE LEADER
A HERD
HAS PARTS FROM ALL SOR
OF DIFFERENT ANIMALS
STRONG
THAT SCYLLA WAS AWESOME. I REALLY DO WANT A DOG'S HEAD.
CAN TRANSFOR
O EAT AND
RES
ROUGHLY 300 KPH
WOULD THAT CAUSE A CONTRADICTION?
FLIES AT FEROCIOUS SPEED
AN SWIM THROUGH THE OCEAN TOO
ABSOLUTELY NO MAGIC WORKS
ON ITS STURDY BODY
WAY COOL
OMNIVOROUS
CAN GROW FORESTS
BUT NEVER GETS CONFUSED
HAS MULTIPLE HEADS


THAT WOULD BE LAIOS.
ZAWA MURMUR
WHAT? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
WHO WROTE THIS?
DOYO (CHATTER)


TH—
THAT BAS-TARD !!!
DIDN'T HE GROW OUT OF THIS STUFF!?


I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE EVEN LAIOS WOULD...
I MEAN...
WAS THAT HIS WISH!?
D— D—
DON'T TELL ME—!!
DID HE WISH TO BE THE MONSTER HE THOUGHT UP!?
......
BA (FLAP)
BABA
SUSAA (FWISH)
B-BUT THIS MIGHT BE...
...PART OF HIS PLAN—
IT'S ODD, BUT...
...FOR SOME REASON, I'M POSITIVE THAT MONSTER IS LAIOS.
LIKEWISE.


EVEN IF YOU'RE SELF-TAUGHT OR VAGUE ON THE SPECIFICS!
WE HAVE TO CLOSE THE HOLE OVER THE DUNGEON!
I WANT ANYONE WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT BARRIERS HELPING OUT!
VICE-CAPTAIN FLAMELA! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
DON'T GET DIS-TRACTED BY THE MON-STER!!
-OH!
ALL OVER
THE MOMENT HE LEAVES THE DUNGEON, IT'S ALL OVER!
SHE'S TOO OKAY
DON'T LET THAT DEMON SET FOOT ON THE SURFACE !!
BUTSU
BUTSU (MMBL)
M-ME TOO...
WHAT LITTLE POWER I HAVE IS YOURS!


DETA
DETA
DETA
PAK KRAK
PAK
PAK
XXX
SUCH DESPERATE LENGTHS TO DELUDE THEMSELVES!
VERY NICE! THIS IS GETTING EXCITING.
MY, MY.
NOW, THEN.
GO DEMONSTRATE YOUR POWER.


GU (TENSE)
DOO (FOOM)
ZAZAA (SPLOOSH)
AAAGH!


BAAAN (BAAAM)
GAH! THE HOLE IN THE SKY—
BARA (CRMBL)
WAAAAH!
DOBO (BLOOSH)
BARA
BARA
YARGH!
DOBON


HA HA HA HA!
BARI (KRAK)
DESTROY THE DUNGEON!
NO ONE NEEDS IT NOW!!
BARI
VERY GOOD!
BARI
GO ON, SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
BAKI (CRUNCH)
BEKIKI (CRUNCH)
UUU!
HELP US...
IT'S NO GOOD. HE'S GONE FULL MONSTER.
WH- WHAT DO WE DO?
HE'S EATING THE BARRI- ER...
THAT'S IT!



YOU SUMMONED THAT SNAKE! THAT ONE!
C—
COME TO THINK OF IT...
WON'T IT TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU?
I'LL TRY...
PIKU (TWITCH)
SHURU (SWERVE)
SHURU
SHURU


HISSS!
PAKKUN (CHOMP)
GOKURI (GULP)
OH...!
I-IT ATE HIM.
WHAT DO WE DO?
IT'S FINE!
IT ATE US TOO, AND IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY ROOMY IN THERE.


THE MONSTER'S GONE!
COME ON, DON'T GIVE UP!
RECAST THE BARRIER.
Y—
YES'M...
THOSE WHO CAN'T CAST, PROVIDE SUP-PORT!
SHARE YOUR MAGIC WITH THEM!
UM, I'M A GNOME...
IT DOESN'T MATTER!
ANYONE WHO'S MOBILE, HELP THE INJURED!
HUH ...?
THE SNAKE'S ACTING SORT OF...
パク
PAKU (GAWP)
パク
PAKU


ZUBAA (SLASH)
BI (RIP)
AAAH!





バタン!
BATAN (FWUMP)
MAR-CILLE!?
IT'S MY FAULT...
IT'S BECAUSE I BECAME THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON.
BECAUSE I REVIVED FALIN WITH ANCIENT MAGIC...
...THE WORLD'S GOING TO END...
IT'S MY FAULT...
YOU IDIOT!
DOES THIS LOOK LIKE THE TIME!?
MY FAULT...
FURA (TOTTER)


BATAN
KABRU!?
IT'S MY FAULT...
IT ALWAYS BOTHERED ME.
I ALWAYS HAD A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
I HAD SO MANY CHANCES TO KILL LAIOS, AND YET...
"KILL"?
WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?
WHY DID I SURVIVE UTAYA...?
IT'S MY FAULT THE WORLD'S ENDING TODAY.
SOMEBODY KILL ME.
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THIS!
KABRU.
CAPTAIN.
BACHIN (SLAP)
......
YAAH!


むくり
THAT COOLED MY HEAD A BIT. THIS REALLY ISN'T THE TIME TO BE SPACING OUT.
WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING
SO WHAT ARE WE DOING?
LET'S GET LAIOS ASIDE FOR NOW...
...AND PIN DOWN THE WINGED LION!
HOW, EXACT-LY!?
FOR EXAM-PLE...
...BY DEMOL-ISHING THAT TOWER !!


KOFF!
KOFF!
NOT EVEN A SCRATCH ...
NO SURPRISE THERE.
WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE !?
I DUNNO!
WE'LL HAVE TO PHYSICALLY TACKLE HIM OR SOMETHING!
DON'T GIVE UP! KEEP CASTING THAT BARRIER !!
EVERYONE ELSE, SUPPORT THE CASTERS!!


A MOMENTOUS DAY LIKE THIS, AND I'M IN RAGS.
I'LL NEED TO CHANGE INTO MY BEST.
GOOD GRIEF...
YAH!
YAH!
GU (GRIP)
THIS BODY WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD IN FANCIER CLOTHES ANYWAY.
A DULL LOOK, BUT I GUESS IT WILL DO.
LIKE THIS, FOR EXAMPLE.
BASA (FLAP)
HM?


DO (RMBL)
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!
DO
DO
DO
WELL! YOU'RE ALL HERE.
I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME TO SEE ME OFF.
THAT ISN'T WHY!!
GIVE LAIOS'S BODY BACK!
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO TAKE THAT!!
I DID.
YOU SEE...
...EVER SINCE I WAS SHUT UP IN HERE, I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO USE MY POWERS WHEN MY LORD ORDERED IT.
NOW I AM THE LORD AND THE LAW.
I CAN FINALLY USE MY POWERS FOR MY OWN SAKE...
...THANKS TO HIS DESIRE.
I'VE BEEN GRANTING YOUR WISHES SINCE ANTIQUITY.
A LITTLE WISH LIKE MINE ISN'T MUCH TO ASK, IS IT?



HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
ASSUMING IT IS...
WHEEZE!
WHEEZE!
...JUST A "LITTLE WISH"!!
HFF!
HFF!
WHEEZE!
WHEEZE!
WHEEZE!
IT'S NOT MUCH FARTHER! HANG IN THERE!
WHEEZE!
HAFF!
UU...
AAAAH!!
WAAA
AAAA
H!!

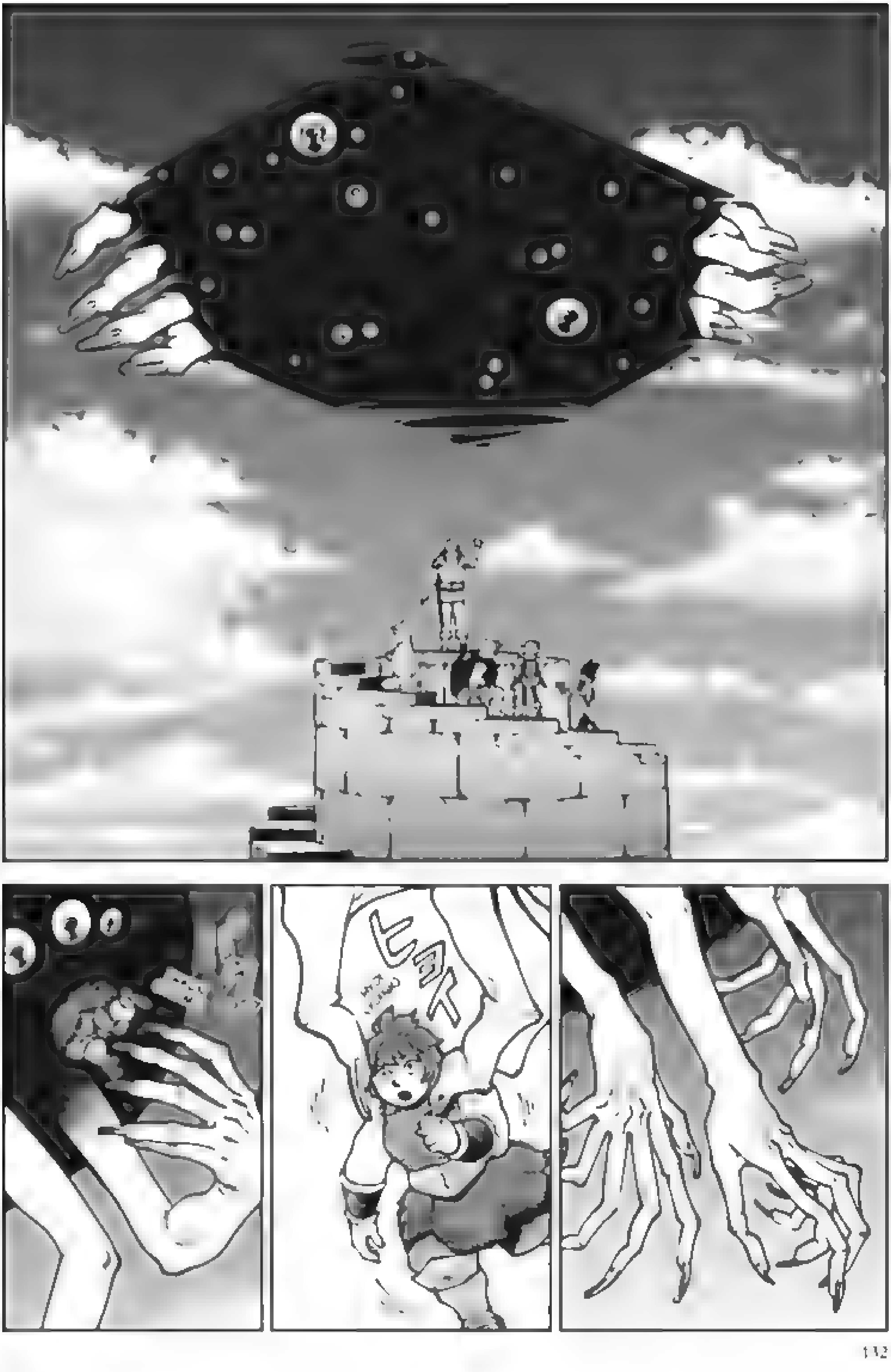

TON
(TMP)




AH—
AAAH!
......
?
WHAT HAPPENED?


WH—
WHAT DID YOU DO?
THEY'RE ALL FROZEN IN TIME!?


I'M ABOUT TO TAKE THEM ALL BACK TO MY WORLD.
I WON'T LET ANYONE DIE ANYMORE!
I'LL CONTINUOUSLY SATISFY HUMAN DESIRES...
...IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYTHING IS INFINITE!
UNFORTUNATELY, I'LL BE LEAVING YOUR GROUP BEHIND.
I DID TECHNICALLY PROMISE LAIOS.
LIVE IN THIS WORLD TILL THE END OF YOUR DAYS.
HERE WE GO.
PI (SLIT)
PAKUN (GAPE)


ヒョイ


NOW LET OUR BLISSFUL, ETERNAL MEAL BEGIN!
HA HA HA HA!


ヒョイ
HYOI (YOINK)
HM?
HM?
HM?
だら〜
DARAAA (DROOL)
...HM?



91. Winged Lion -6-



...AND NOW YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW HUMANS TASTE?
YOU'VE FINALLY BECOME A MON-STER...
YOU MUST HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO.
—WHOA
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA.


YANYA (CLAMOR)
YANYA
GOOD ONE, LAIOS!
GO ON, EAT THE WINGED LION!
BUT IF HE DOES THAT...
...WON'T HE BE STUCK IN THAT FORM?
AH...
OH CRUD.
HEY, WINGED LION!
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, TURN LAIOS BACK TO NORMAL RIGHT NOW!
YOU'RE JUST A HUMAN NOW!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
IF HUMANS GET KILLED, THEY DIE.
WHEN YOU GOT LAIOS'S BODY, YOU DUG YOUR OWN GRAVE!
GIVE UP, AND RES-URRECT FALIN TOO!
YOU STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND?
"THIS" IS ONLY A PART OF ME.
NOW THAT I'M OUT OF THE DUNGEON, THE ENTIRE SURFACE IS PRACTICALLY MY HANDS AND FEET—


PAKU (CHOMP)
パク!!
AGH!!!
MOGO
モゴ
モゴ
MOGO (WRIGGLE)
ぶわっ
BUWA (PWOOH)
BORO (TUMBLE)
BORO
ボロ
ボロ
HA-HA-HA!
HA-HA-HA-HA!


THERE'S AS MUCH OF ME AS YOU COULD WISH FOR.
PORO
ポロ
PORO
ポロ
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT.
GO AHEAD AND EAT YOUR FILL.
ZORO
ぞろ
ZORO (CROWD)
ぞろ
YOU MAY ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO FINISH ME OFF.
GATSU (SCARF)
GATSU
ガッ
ガッ
パク
PAKU
LET'S MAKE A CONTEST OF IT.
BAKU (MNCH)
バク
WHICH WILL HAPPEN FIRST? WILL I RUN OUT, OR WILL YOU BE SATISFIED?


HYOI (YOINK)
HYOI
PAKU (CHOMP)
BY THE TIME THEY SETTLE THAT, I BET MANKIND WILL HAVE BEEN POLISHED OFF TOO.
PAKU
AAH!
BUTSU (MMBL)
BUTSU
BUTSU
WHAT DO WE DO? WHAT DO WE DO? WHAT DO WE DO?
AT THIS POINT, I DOUBT THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO.
HAAH
KYU (RUB)
KYU
I'M GRABBING ONE OF THOSE HANDS AND JUMPING IN!
I REFUSE TO GET LEFT BEHIND!
SORRY, BUT NO. I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT.
EEP!
YOUR GROUP WILL LIVE OUT YOUR LIVES HERE.
IF YOU MISS YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTERS, I'LL MAKE THEM FOR YOU.
DOOON'T!
I'M CONFIDENT THEY'LL BE AS GOOD AS THE REAL—


BAKUN (CHOMP)
GATSU (SCARF)
GATSU
HEY, THAT'S NOT SAFE.
YOU ALMOST ATE YOUR COMPANION.
STAY BACK.
HE'S NOT INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE YOU NOW.
COME ON, OVER HERE!


GASAA (SCRAPE)
EEK!
クチャ
KUCHA
クチャ
GOKUN (GULP)
ゴクン



ガツ
GATSU (SCARF)
バクッ
BAKU (CHOMP)
バク
BAKU
バク
BAKU
ガフ
GAFU (SNRF)
わら
WARA (SWARM)
わら
WARA
わら
WARA
WHAT'S THE MATTER!? COME ON!
I SAID THERE WAS AS MUCH OF ME AS YOU COULD POSSIBLY WANT.
IN THAT CASE...


MAYBE I'LL TAKE A BITE OUT OF YOU TOO.
DOSU (SHUNK)
KEEEAAAH!
HM.
GORI (GRIND) GORI
SURPRIS-INGLY LIGHT.
HEH HEH. HOW DOES IT FEEL?
TO HAVE ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE INFLICTED ON YOU?


HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!


SNF!
HFF!
COME ON, FIGHT!
WANT SECONDS!?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SLOWING DOWN.
MAYBE I'LL JUST CRUSH YOU.
WHY DON'T I DEVOUR YOU FROM THE INSIDE OUT?
STOP IT!
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THIS!
HE DIDN'T WISH FOR ANY PARTICULAR TREATMENT ONCE HE WAS A MONSTER.
I CAN DO AS I PLEASE WITH HIM.
KUCHA (SHLRK)
KUCHA
ONCE ALL THE HUMANS ARE GONE...
...HE MAY TURN HIS FANGS ON THE REST OF YOU SOMEDAY IN THIS FORM.


IN THAT CASE...
...I SHOULD DEAL WITH HIM NOW!!
FRANKLY, I'VE NO FURTHER USE FOR HIM ANYWAY.
ONE, TWO, THREE!
BUCHI
BUCHI (RIP)
GRRAAAH!
FOR "THE STRONGEST," HE'S PRETTY WEAK!!
CAN'T HE DO ANYTHING BUT EAT?
NO MONSTER COULD BEAT A SUPER-NATURAL BEING...
BUT HAVING THREE HEADS CLEARLY GIVES HIM MORE WEAK POINTS.
HOW IS THIS "THE STRONGEST"?
THAT'S THE SORT OF FELLOW LAIOS IS.
HOW IS THIS... "THE STRONGEST"...



I CAN GET IN THROUGH HIS EYE SOCKETS.
I'LL TRY GOING THROUGH HIS EARS.
HIS NOSTRILS ARE PASSABLE TOO.
LET'S SEE WHICH OF ME CAN GET TO HIS BRAIN FIRST.
BUN (SHAKE)
IT'S TOO BAD YOU LIKED ANIMALS.
BUCHI (SNAP)
IF YOU'D BECOME A SPIRIT OR AN ORB OF LIGHT...
...AT LEAST IN A FORM LIKE THAT, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE FELT ANY PAIN.


HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
GEH!
BLRG!
GURAA (TOTTER)
BASHAA (KERSPLASH)


MY, MY.
FULL ALREADY?
BUKU (BURBLE)
BUKU
OHH...


BUT WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!
NEXT I'LL BUTCHER YOU AND COOK YOU.
ぴ
I'LL MAKE ALL SORTS...
...OF...
......
PITA (FREEZE)
ぴた
PITA
ぴた
PITA
......


...LAIOS, YOU...
WHAT...
WHAT DID YOU EAT?
KUCHA (SMECK)
KUCHA
GOKURI (GULP)
ゴクリ


—SPIT IT OUT!
SPIT IT OUT.
SPIT IT OUT!!
SPIT IT OUT!!!



ぬるり
NURURI (OOZE)
すとん
SUTON (THMP)
くちゃ
くちゃ
KUCHA (SMECK
KUCHA
もぐ
MOGU (MNCH)
ガッ
GA (GRAB)



WHY, YOU—
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT!?
BA (LUNGE)
HYOI (SWOOP)
ヒョイ
...I GOT CURIOUS.
BY NATURE, YOU'RE BEYOND HUMAN UNDER-STANDING.
WHAT DESIRE WOULD OBSESS YOU THIS MUCH?


STOP!
—AND HOW WOULD IT TASTE?
PAKURI (CRUNCH)
THAT'S MY APPETITE!!
THAT'S—
IT'S MINE!!


*MY IDEA OF A COOL MONSTER—
*CAN FLY THROUGH THE SKY AT 300 KPH.
*CAN GROW FORESTS FROM ITS POOP.
THE DEMON ISN'T MOVING.
*CAN SWIM THROUGH THE OCEAN TOO...
ABLE TO EAT AND DIGEST DESIRES!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE WROTE IN THAT BIT RECENTLY!
YOU MEAN...
...LAIOS MADE THAT WISH SO HE COULD EAT THE DEMON'S APPETITE!?
...I DON'T KNOW.
I REALLY HOPE HE DID...
...BUT IT COULD EASILY BE A COINCIDENCE.
WHAT A PREPOSTEROUS FELLOW.
DID HE NEED THE BIT ABOUT GROWING FORESTS FROM HIS POOP?


MOGU
もぐ
MOGU (CHEW)
もぐ
THIS REALLY IS...
もぐ
MOGU
...A TASTE LIKE NO OTHER.
IT ISN'T SWEET. IT ISN'T SPICY.
もぐ
MOGU
HOW SHOULD I DESCRIBE IT...?
THE MORE YOU EAT, THE MORE YOU WANT.
かぷ
KAPU (NIP)
TO SATISFY THIS CRAVING...
ごくり
GOKURI (GULP)
...YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF TEMPTED TO DO JUST ABOUT ANY-THING.
IT TASTES LIKE THE FORCE THAT MOVES LIFE ITSELF.
GIVE IT BACK...


YOU DON'T NEED THIS.
WITH YOUR BOTTOMLESS STOMACH, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TERRIBLE POISON.
THIS IS WHAT TRAPPED YOU IN THIS WORLD...
IT'S NOT!
DON'T TALK AS IF YOU KNOW!!
YOU MAY BE AN IRREGULAR ENTITY FROM ANOTHER WORLD...
...BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW OUR RULES!
IN OTHER WORDS—


EAT, OR BE EATEN!!
GA (GRAB)
IF YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP EATING...
...THEN IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, I'LL EAT YOU!!


BAKU (CHOMP)
AAH!
GARI (SCRATCH)
NO!
GARI
NO!!



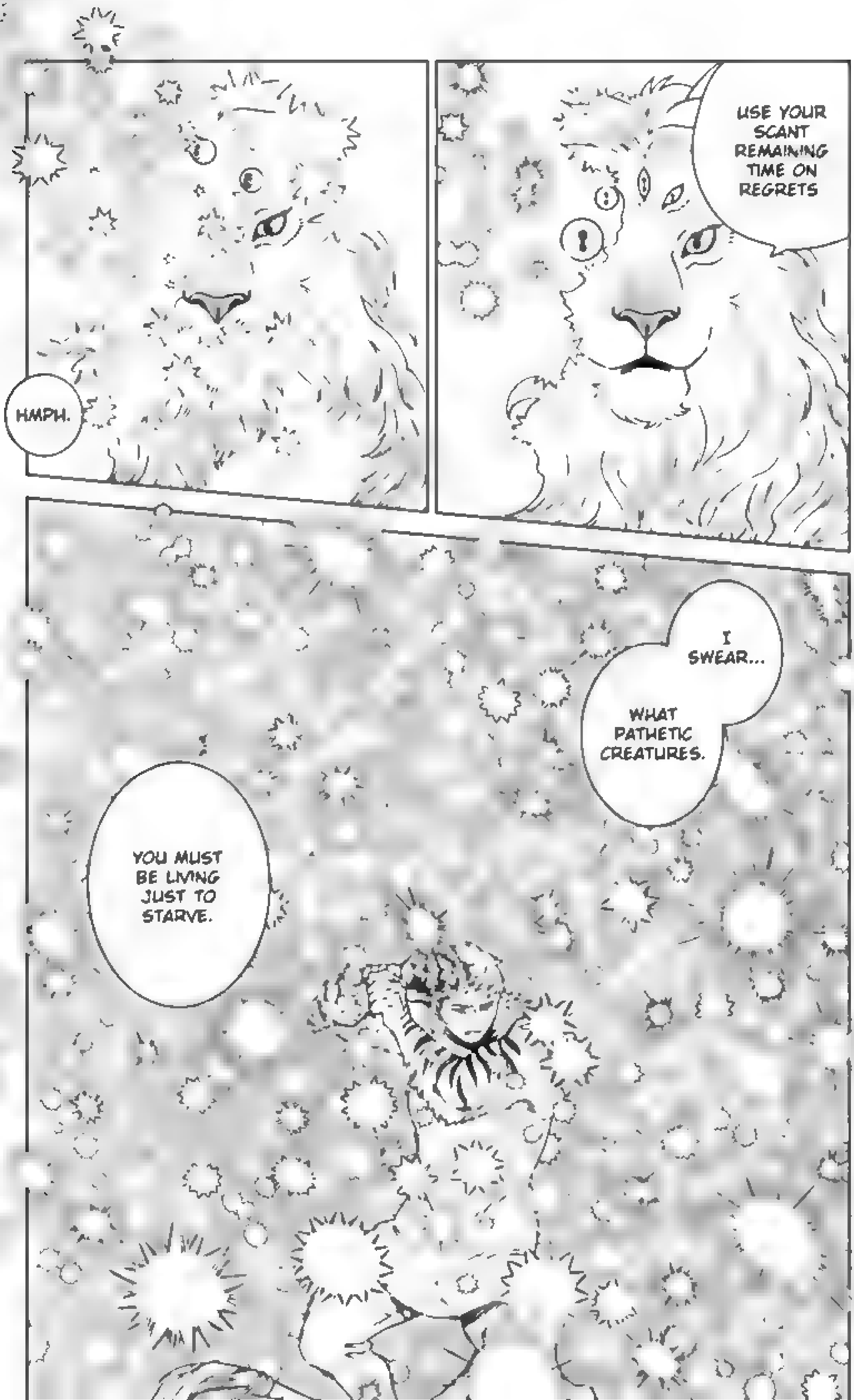

URP...
YORO (TOTTER)


OHH...
IT'S GONE.
OH.
HORO (FLAKE)
ホロ...
THE FIRST THING I ACQUIRED HERE.
YOU ATE IT, AND NOW IT'S GONE.
I NO LONGER WANT ANYTHING.
EVERYTHING'S BORING.
IT'S LOST ALL MEANING.
"I" AM DISAPPEARING...


YOU...
...DON'T NEED TO BE BOUND BY A THING LIKE APPETITE.
YOU WERE FREER THAN THAT.
DON'T OBSESS OVER SOMETHING SO PETTY!
YOU CAN GO WHEREVER YOU LIKE.


LAIOS TOUDEN.
I CURSE YOU.
GA (GRAB)


YOUR GREATEST WISH WILL NEVER COME TRUE NOW.
MY WISH...
FALIN!!


HMPH.
USE YOUR SCANT REMAINING TIME ON REGRETS
I SWEAR...
WHAT PATHETIC CREATURES.
YOU MUST BE LIVING JUST TO STARVE.


LOOK!
WHAT ABOUT THE REAL LAIOS!?
THE DEMON'S DISAP-PEARING.

To Be Continued...


MISC. MONSTER TALES
DEMON
13
ONCE, THE ANCIENTS DISCOVERED POWER FROM A DIFFERENT, LIMITLESS WORLD.
EVEN WHEN YOU USE IT, IT DOESN'T GO AWAY.
LET'S CALL IT "MAGIC."
BY USING SPELLS, THE ANCIENTS PROSPERED.
FOR FISHING.
FOR FARMING.
FOR COOKING.
...THEY CREATED "SPELLS"—
OOOH!
WAYS TO CONTROL MAGIC.
I WISH IT WERE MORE CONVENIENT TO USE.
I THINK WE COULD AFFECT IT WITH SPEECH AND MOTIONS.
BY TRIAL AND ERROR...
AS A RESULT OF CONSTANT USE, MAGIC BEGAN TO DEVELOP ITS OWN WILL.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT TO MAKE ME DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
YES, THAT!
HUMANS CREATED A LANGUAGE TO CONTROL MAGIC.
MAGIC DEVELOPED ORGANS TO UNDERSTAND IT.
THESE PIECES MESHED AND FORMED THE DEMON.
I'VE BEEN GIVEN MANY NAMES.
THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE THINGS THEY CALL ME.



MAYBE OTHER ORGANS DEDICATED TO HEARING OTHER CREATURES EXIST TOO, AND HUMANS JUST DON'T KNOW.
MM-HMM.
MM-HMM.
WE WANT THIS.
THAT.
GIMME.
BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN FORMED BY HUMAN DESIRES, IT WAS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO COMMUNICATE WITH HUMANS.
I CAN UNDERSTAND HUMANS NOW...
...BUT NOT OTHER CREATURES.
?
THEY CREATED A DUNGEON, MAKING IT HARDER FOR THE DEMON TO USE VAST SPELLS.
WHY?
FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.
AT LAST, HUMANS REALIZED THE DANGER.
BRINGING SOMETHING INFINITE INTO A FINITE WORLD PROBABLY WASN'T A GREAT MOVE.
PLUS, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S EATING SOME-THING.
YEAH, NOT GOOD.
BUT WHAT?
STILL, IN THE END, THEY FELL.
YAAAAH!
TO PREVENT MANKIND FROM MAKING THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE...
...ALL ANCIENT MAGIC—THAT IS, KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE DEMON—WAS LABELED "TABOO" AND HIDDEN BY THE SURVIVORS.
A SCHOLAR WHO'D SPENT HIS LIFE RESEARCH-ING ANCIENT MAGIC LEFT BEHIND THESE LAST WORDS—
THE DEMON HAS NO MALICE.
HOWEVER, AS LONG AS HUMANS GIVE HIM DESIRES, THE WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED SOONER OR LATER.
AFTER ALL, HUMANS HARBOR A DESIRE FOR DEATH.

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DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

RYOKO KUI

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